

111020-1

Ser. No. 10/681,459

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 remain in this application. Claims 29, 33 and 34 are amended herein to correct a typographical error unrelated to substantive issues of patentability. The word "is" inadvertently included is deleted.

The Office Action requires election of a species from the following: Species I, drawn to Figs. 1-5a; Species II, drawn to Fig. 5b; Species III, drawn to Figs. 6a-6d; Species IV, drawn to Fig. 7; Species V, drawn to Figs. 8a and 8b; Species VI, drawn to Fig. 9a; Species VII, drawn to Fig. 9b; Species VIII, drawn to Fig. 9c; Species IX, drawn to Fig. 9d; Species X, drawn to Fig. 10a; Species XI, drawn to Fig. 10b; Species XII, drawn to Fig. 11; Species XIII, drawn to Fig. 12; Species XIV, drawn to Fig. 13; Species XV, drawn to Fig. 14; Species XVI, drawn to Fig. 15; Species XVII, drawn to Fig. 16a; and Species XVIII, drawn to Fig. 16b.

Applicant elects Species I. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 8, 24-26, 28 and 29 are readable on the elected species. Claim 24 is generic.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement as applied to Species I-XVIII on the grounds that the remaining species are so related to each other efficiency of prosecution would necessarily be served by removal of the restriction requirement.

The consideration of prosecution efficiency is addressed in the notice entitled: "Restrictions Between Inventions" in the May 13, 1975 issue of the Official Gazette (934 O.G. 450), which indicates that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner is encouraged to examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions".

In view of the fact that the claims in question here have related subject matter and in view of the intent expressed in the aforementioned Patent and Trademark Office Notice relating to restriction practice, reconsideration of the restriction

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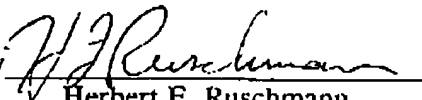
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Office Notice relating to restriction practice, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested and withdrawal of this restriction is respectfully requested.

Should the restriction requirement not be withdrawn, Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional application at a later date on the non-elected claims. Accordingly, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and favorable action on the merits of this application are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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